

ARTICLE

OF

Visitation and Enquiry, concerning
Matters

Ecclesiastical,

According to the

LAWES and CANONS

Of the

CHURCH of ENGLAND.

Exhibited to the Ministers, Church-Wardens,
and Side-men of every Parish, within the
Archdeaconry of *Worcester*, in the Visitation
of the Reverend *William Hodges* D^r of Divi-
nity, Archdeacon of *Worcester*.

Anno Domini 1666.

LONDON, Printed by *Thomas Ratcliff*.



The Oath to be administred to every Church-Warden and Side-man, within the Archdeaconry of *Worcester*.

YOU, and every of you shall swear diligently to enquire, and true presentment make to these Articles, according to his Majesties Laws.

So help you God.



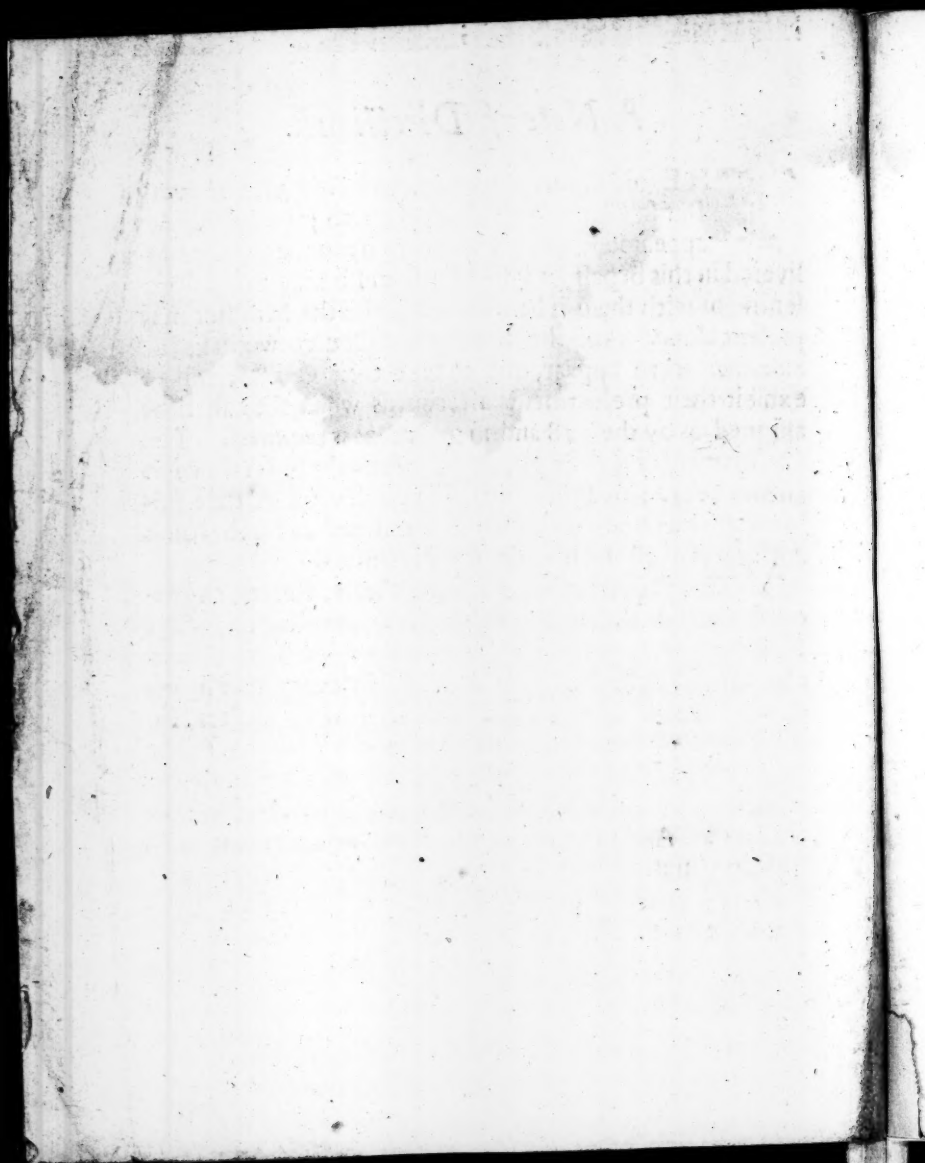
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A Note of Directions.

THE old Church-warden, and Side men of every Parish Church and Chappel are to joyn together in appearance, and presentment upon the Articles delivered in this behalf, and the Minister also may joyn in presentment with them if he will, otherwise the Minister may present alone. And the new elected Church-wardens and Side-men are to appear, and to take their Oathes, and to exhibit their presentments afterwards when they shall be assigned, as by the 118 and 119 Canons is required. The presentments are to be plainly and particularly set down, to answer every part and branch of every several Article following, and to be subscribed and testified under the hands and marks of all and singular the Presenters.

2. The Proprietaries, Parsons, Vicars, Curats, and Sequestrators of Ecclesiastical Benefices, and their respective Farmers, and all publick Lecturers, Schoolmasters, Ushers, and Under-Schoolmasters, &c. within every Parish, are also to appear, and to exhibit their Letters of Orders, Institutions, and Inductions and all other their Dispensations, Licenses, and faculties whatsoever, not being formerly exhibited in the Visitation of the modern Arch-Dracon now Visiting. And they are also to make real payment of all such Procurations and Synodals, and other duties as are respectively due and payable by every of them severally in this Visitation.

Con.





Concerning Church and Church-yard.



Whether is your Church and Chancel in all respects well: and sufficiently repaired: & kept sweet and cleane; if not, in whose default? Have you therein the ten Commandments, the Articles of the Belief, & other godly sentences fairly written: the Bible of the largest volume, the Books of Common prayer, the two volumes of Homilies, and all other books requisite: a severall Pulpit, a convenient seat for the

Minister at Prayers a large & comely Surplices, whole and untorn?

2. Have you in your Church a strong chest for almes, with a hole in the top, and three locks and keys thereto: is the money therein put employed to the use of the poor?

3. Have you a Register of Christnings, Weddings, and Burials, in a book of parchment, duly kept in a chest with three locks and keys?

4. Hath any man pulled down, or uncovered, or suffered to decay, any Parsonage or Vicarage houses, or any Church, Chancel, Chappel, Vestry, or Church-houses, in part, or in all, or employed them, or any of them, to any prophane uses?

5. Whether is your Parsonage, Vicarage, or Ministers house, or any part thereof, converted, made, used, or imp'oyed, to, or for any common passage, entry, thorough-fare, or common way for people, or Cattel usually to pass thorough, forth of the Church-yard into, or unto any Ale-house, Tippling, or Aleualling-house, common Inn, or Wine Tavern, and by whom, and by whose sufferance and permission, and how long hath the same been so made, enjoyed, used, employed, or rather misused and misemployed, as aforesaid?

6. Whether are the pales, fences, enclosures, and marks of ancient Bounds and Limits of your Parsonage, Vicarage, or Ministers houses, or of the Courts, entries, gardens, back-sides, or other appurtenances belonging to the same, or any part thereof, removed or altered, or taken away from their ancient places, bounds,

bounds, and limits thereof, and layed and used so, and with any
Mistaking, house, common Inne, or Wine Tavern, by whom,
when, and by whose sufferance, and how long time hath the same
been so done and suffered? And whether by the continuance of the
use of the premises, as aforesaid, may not the same in short time
grow out of knowledge, and by some prescription to become presu-
mptual to the Church, or succeeding Incumbent thereof?

7. Are your Bells, Bell-ropes, and Clock in good repair, and
well ordered? Is your Church-yard well fenced, and decently
kept? Is it not profaned with fighting, bawling, chiding, ga-
ming, dancing, playing, or with unlawful Cattel, or otherwise;
if yea, how? and by whom, and by whose default?

Ministers and Curates.

8. Doth your Minister read, or say the whole Divine Service eve-
ry Sunday and Holy-day, and administer the holy Sacraments
according to the book of Common-prayer, without addition or alte-
ration? Is your Minister a licensed Preacher, doth he diligently
preach sound Doctrine, and for matters of Government seriously
teach and maintain the Kings Supremacy under God within his
Majesties Dominions, over all persons, and in all causes, as well
Ecclesiastical as Civil, and the abolishing of all foreign power?
Doth he exhort the people to obedience, and before his Sermons
use the form of Prayer prescribed in the 55. Canon, or pray to that
effect?

9. Hath your Minister more Benefices then one; if two, or
more; doth he reside upon one of them himself, and maintain a li-
censed Preacher on the other? If he have but one, is he resident
and dwelling thereupon, is he painfull in his vocation, of sober and
good conversation, and given to hospitality?

10. Doth your Minister use decency of Apparel, as well in the
Church as elsewhere? And in the time of Divine Prayers, and ad-
ministration of the Sacraments, doth he use to wear the Surplices?
And if he be a Graduate, such a hood as is agreeable to his calling?

11. Is your Minister a peace-maker, and no sower of discord, or
is he suspected, famed, or noted of any notorious crime, or giveth
he any ill example, in his carriage or demeanour?

12. Doth any preach in your Parish, that refuseth to conform
himself to the Laws, Ordinances, and Rites of the Church of
England?

13. Hath your Minister a Curate, and how is he licensed? Doth
he serve two Cures, and doth he give notice of the fasting-days
and Holy-days commanded and allowed?

14. If your Minister be not a preacher allowed doth he pro-
cure monthly Sermons? And when there is no Sermon, doth he
read

15. Doth he take upon him to expound any text of

Preachers have come from any other place, and in your Parish, within these twelue moneths last past, upon their names written in a book kept for that purpose? Wheth such a Preacher subscribed his name thereto, and let down the day when he preached, and by whom licensed?

16. Hath your Minister obtained his Benefice by any Symoniacal compact, either directly or indirectly?

17. Hath any of your Parish, or of any other Parish, unreverently used your Minister, laid violent hands on him, or disgraced his office and function by word or deed?

Divine Service.

18. Is Divine Service in due time on Sundays, Holy-days, and their Eves, and at other times appointed, reverently said, or sung in your Church or Chappel, with the Letany on Wednesdays and Fridays, and all other rites and ceremonies, according to the prescript form of common Prayer in the Communion Book?

19. Wheth doth any, not being licensed (or any not ordered, at least for a Deacon) say common Prayer openly in your Church or Chappel?

20. Do any men, young or old, use to wear their hats in the Church or Chappel in time of Divine Service, or are there any that behave themselves disorderly in the Church, Chappel, or Church-yard, or any disturbers of Divine Service or Sermons?

21. Wheth do any dissuallers (or others in your Parish) suffer any drinking, or gaming in their houses on Sundays, or on Holy-days in time of Divine Service or Sermons?

22. Wheth any in your Parish upon Sundays or Holy-days, use their trade, or do any other work or labour, as Brewting, baking, Washing, Barbing, or such like; or do any Mercers, apers, Shoemakers, Butchers, or others whatsoever, open shops for sale of wares upon those days, or do hedge, ditch, carry or draw burdens by themselves, their servants, horses, or cattel whatsoever on such days? And is the fifth day of November observed according as is ordained in that behalf, and also 1. of January, and the 2. th. of May?

The Holy Communion.

Have you a decent Communion Table on a frame, a seemly and a cloth of Linnen, a Communion-cup and cover of silver flagon of pewter, or purer mettall, for the Wine, a be Bread and a towel to lay over it? Is the said Table, other use, or in any sort profaned, and how?

Wheth is there any in your Parish, which being full sixteen years

years of age and upwards, hath not receiv'd the
thre severall times in the year past at least, in his
Church, whereof Easter to be one of the thre times?

25. Doth your Minister instruct, or examine his Pa-
rishes concerning the Sacraments at convenient times, before he
minister the Communion? And doth he admit any thereto, that
not say at least the Lords Prayer, the Articles of the Christia-
n faith, and the Ten Commandments?

26. Is your Communion ministered with Bread and Wine con-
secrated, in such order as in the Book of Common Prayer is ap-
pointed? And doth your Minister deliver both kinds to every se-
verall Communicant, with the blessing prescribed in the Book of
Common Prayer?

27. Doth any receive the holy Communion either sitting, stand-
ing, or otherwise then kneeling, as is prescribed in the Book of
Common Prayer? Or do any refuse to receive the same kneeling?
And doth your Minister admit any to receive the Communion
otherwise then kneeling?

28. Doth your Minister admit any notorious Offenders, or any
Schismatics to the holy Communion, before due penance en-
forned by the Ordinary be duly performed by them? Or doth he
admit any notoriously known to be out of charity, or any that hath
done any open wrong to his neighbour, before reconciliation made
to the party wronged? And have any been put from the Commu-
nion, and wherefore?

29. Whether doth your Minister appoint and observe so many
Communions every year, as that the Parishioners may conveni-
ently receive all of them thre severall times in the year? And doth
he use to give publick notice thereof in the Church, the Sabbath
day next going before every such Communion, that the Parish-
ners may prepare themselves to be partakers thereof? And ha-
ve any stranger or other of any other Parish resorted to your Pa-
rish Church to hear Divine Service or Sermon, or received the
Communion there within these twelve months last past? And

Baptism.

30. Have you in your Church a convenient Font of Stone
kept, and covered, standing in the antient place? Doth your
Minister baptise therein, or in a Vessel or other thing, or in
other ceremonies than such as are allowed in the book of C-
ommon Prayer; or doth he omit, neglect, or not use all the cer-
emonies therein prescribed, & doth he use the sign of the Cross in?

31. Doth your Minister refuse to baptise any children
of parents, that are brought to the Church?

32. Are Parents urged to be present at the

childzen? M: be any admitted to be God-fathers, or God-mothers, that have not receibed the holy Communion? M: do any Parents refuse to have their childzen signed with the sign of the Croſs in Baptiſm?

33. Have any childzen that were bozn in your Pariſh ben carri- ed out of the Pariſh to be baptiſſed elſewhere? M: have any not ben baptiſſed at all, or in places by parties unknowen?

34. Whether hath your Miniſter reſuſed, deſerred, or delayed to come unto and to chriſten any child being in weakneſs, or in danger of death, being thereunto required, by reaſon whereof ſuch a child hath (through his negligence, or by his default) dyed unbaptiſſed?

Catechiſm.

35. Doth your Miniſter or his Curate upon every Sunday and Holy-day, beſore evening prayer, ſor half an hour or more examine and iſtruct the youth and ignorant perſons of his Pariſh, in the ten Commandments, the Articles of the Belief, and the Lords Prayer; and doth he diligently hear, iſtruct, and teach them the Catechiſm ſet forth in the Book of Common Prayer?

36. Do Parents and Houſholders bring or ſend their childzen and ſervants to the Church every Sunday and Holy-day duly to be catechiſed, according as the late Canons require, and who are negligent therein?

Matrimony.

37. Whether is Matrimony ſolemnized in your Church or Chap- pel according to the Book of Common Prayer?

38. Have you in your Church a Table of the degrees of Marriage: are any married within the degrees of conſanguinity or affinity therein forbidden? or do any childzen under the age of twenty one years contract themſelves, or marry without conſent of their pa- rents or Guardians?

39. Have any been married without the Banes thrice asked in the Church, three ſeveral Sundays or Holy-days, or at any time of the day, than betwixt the hour of eight and twelve in the fore- noon; or at any times prohibited, that is to ſay, from Advent Sun- day to the Octaves of Epiphany, from Septageſima Sunday to the Octaves of Eaſter, from Rogation Sunday to Trinity Sun- day: When, where, by whom, & who were preſent at ſuch marriage?

40. Have any that dwell in your Pariſh, ben married in any other Pariſh, or any of another Pariſh, ben married in your Pa- riſh? M: have any ben married privately out of the Church, or ſace of the Congregation, then, where, by whom, and who were preſent at ſuch marriages?

41. Have any women not well known to be married, ben deli- vered of any child in your Pariſh, and in whose houſe? M: hath

any woman in your Parish been carnally knoton, or begotten with child before marriage, and by whom?

42. Have any forsaken their wives and husbands, and married others? Have any married again after they have been divorced? Or do any which have been divorced keep company still together?

43. Do any married couples live asunder and not together, and do either of them keep in their house, or secretly resort to any other, to the raising of suspicion or fame of incontinency?

44. Hath any in your Parish, for money or reward, married any woman that committed fornication or adultery with another man? Or hath any unmarried woman, begotten with child, gone out of your Parish before she hath done penance enjoined by the Ordinary; where was she, or is she received or harboured, at whose charge, and who conveyed her away?

Visitation of the sick.

45. Doth your Minister or Curate visit the sick, doth he admonish them to repentance, comfort the penitent, and exhort them to charitable alms-deeds?

Burial of the Dead.

46. Are poor dead buried according to the form of Burial set down in the Book of Common Prayer, or have any been buried secretly, or in the night, who, and by whom, and who were present thereat?

47. Do the Executors or Administrators, or other friends of them that are buried in Church or Chancel, repair again the pavement, and give any thing to the Church, or in whose default is the same so neglected and not repaired?

Churching of Women.

48. Doth any woman refuse to give God thanks openly in the Church, or (as we term it) to be churched at convenient times after child-birth, or doth any Minister refuse to Church them so, or Church them any otherwise than is prescribed in the Book of Common Prayer?

49. Hath any woman unlawfully begotten with child been admitted to publick thanksgiving in the Church before she hath performed such penance as was enjoined her by the Ordinary, or at least been churched in a white sheet, and confessed her fault penitently before sufficient witnesses, and undertaken to stand to the censure of her Ordinary for her said offence? And hath any been so churched without license of the Ordinary?

Parish Clerks.

50. Have you a Parish Clerk chosen by the Minister, what age is he of, and is he of honest conversation, hath he competent skill in reading, writing, and singing: And doth any withhold or detain his

his wages or duties from him: Hath he ben examined and appoynted by his Ordinary?

Schoolmasters,

51. Have you any School-house, and how is it repaired? And have you any Schoolmaster in your Parish that teacheth publickly or privatly, is he lawfully licensed? Doth he come only to the Church, and receive the holy Communion? Doth he instruct his Schollars in the Catechism allowed, and in the Book intituled God and the King? Cansteth he them to come to Divine Prayers in the Church, and to hear and note Sermons? Teacheth he any other Grammar than that which is allowed?

52. Is any School-master known, suspected publickly or privatly to read to his Schollars, or suffer them to read any book that may confirm them in Popery, superstition, or disobedience to the Kings Majesty, or to his Laws Ecclesiastical or Civil, and how many either men or women, do teach childzen in your Parish, and what be their names?

Schismatics and Reculants of all sorts,

53. Do you know any that teach or maintain any Doctrine contrary to the Articles agreed upon in the Convocation An. Dom. 1562.

54. Doth any preach, minister the Communion, baptize childzen, or church women in private houses, or otherwhere than in the Church; and who be so church'd, or do so communicate?

55. Know you any that absent themselves from the Church negligently, or wilfully, how long have they so done? And of them that are absent without a sufficient and lawfull cause, is the forfeiture of 12 d. taken every Sunday, and converted to the use of the poor, according to the Statute Eliz. 1.

56. Do any in your Parish maintain, hold or resort unto any Contenticles, private prayers, or meetings: or bid, keep, or solemnize any fasts, prophesies, or exercises, other then what are licensed by the Bishop of the Diocess, or commanded by the Kings Majesty? And do any of your Parish absent themselves, or go from their own Parish Church, on any Sundays at morning or evening prayers, to hear any Sermon, Lecture, Prayers or Exercise, at any other Parish Church or Chappel, and who be they?

57. Know you any that forbear to participate with the Church of England in prayer, or Sacraments, either denying the Church to be Apostolical, or condemning the ceremonies thereof as superstitious?

58. Have you in your Parish any Popish Recusants, any half Papists, that come to the Church, and receive not the Communion; any Church-Papists, that come and receive themselves, but either perswade others, or maintain their wives, childzen, family, or friends not to come?

59. Doth any Seminary Priest or Jesuit resort to any place within this Diocese, or suspect you any such? Or do you know any that resort to any Popish Priest or Jesuit?

60. Know you any that by writing, talk, or argument, impugn the things Supremacy, or any that have kept in their custody, that sell, disperse, carry, or deliver unto others any unlawful Books against the Religion and Government established, or in defence of any foreign power, or domestical consistory?

Excommunicated persons.

61. Are all excommunicated persons kept out of the Church from divine prayers and receiving of the holy Communion, untill they be lawfully absolved? And are there any in your Parish which have stood excommunicated forty days and upwards: are such persons as stand excommunicated, once in every six months denounced in your Church in time of Divine Service upon some Sunday?

62. Hath any excommunicated person not absolved (at least in his extremity) not giving any testimony of his repentance before his departure, been buried in Christian burial, who buried him, her, or them, where and when, and who were present at such burials?

63. Do any retain, or keep in their house, or service, any person denounced excommunicate, or do any way encourage them there, in, or converse with them in buying, selling, eating, drinking, or otherwise keep company with them in any sort?

Wills, Testaments, and Administrations.

64. Do any in your Parish administer the goods of the dead, or any way intermeddle therewith, without lawfull authority committed unto them under the Ordinaries seal? And who be they?

65. Know you any in your Parish that suppress the last Will of the Dead, or any that forge or alter any Wills, or any Executors that fulfill not the Testators Will, or any that detain Legacies given to any charitably uses? And who be they?

Several Articles.

66. Do any in your Parish prophane the Sabbath days, or not duly observe the Holy days appointed? Are Ember fasts orderly observed at the four times of the year appointed?

67. Are the days and orders of Perambulation duly observed in the Rogation week? If not, in whose default?

68. Are the Canons, Constitutions, and Orders made and agreed upon in the Convocation house Anno Dom. 1603. read over once every year in your Church, upon Sundays or Holy days, according to his Majesties Commandment in that behalf?

69. Doth your Minister yearly present, and give up in writing to the Ordinary, the names of all Recusants and half Recusants, men and women, as well sojourners as Parishioners, and common guests